

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:
communication control means for receiving a read command from an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored; and

a memory means for storing information about a device, that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus, in a memory area, from which the external device can read out data by using the read command,

wherein the device, that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus, includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising transmission means for transmitting information in the memory area in accordance with the read command from the external device.

accordance with the read command from the external device.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the memory area is set in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein position information unique to an electronic device is written in a node dependent information directory of the configuration ROM.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the memory area is specified based upon information held in an Instance Directory of the configuration ROM.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said memory means stores, in the memory area, information indicative of a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus and a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information processing

apparatus.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

communication control means for sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

acquisition means for acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on said external device, from a memory area of the external device, by using the read command; and

display control means for controlling a display based upon the information acquired by said acquisition means,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on said external device, includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said

by the IEEE-1394 standard to acquire information about the device that is mountable on the external device.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 8,

wherein

 said acquisition means acquires information indicative of a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and a device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device, and

 said display control means identifiably displays the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired by said acquisition means.

Claims 12. - 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising:

 a storage step, of storing information about a device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, in a memory area that is accessible by an external device by using a read command that specifies a memory address where data to be read out is stored;

a communication control step, of receiving a read command from the external device; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the information about the device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, in accordance with the read command from the external device,

wherein the device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of controlling an information processing apparatus comprising:

a communication control step, of sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

an acquisition step, of acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device, from a memory area of the external device by using the read command; and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device, includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A storage medium storing a control program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus, the method comprising:

a storage step, of storing information about a device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, in a memory area that is accessible by an external device by using a read command that specifies a memory address where data to be read out is stored;

a communication control step, of receiving a read command from the external device; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the information about the device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, in accordance with the read command from the external device,

wherein the device mountable on the information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information

processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A storage medium storing a control program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus said method comprising:

 a communication control step, of sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

 an acquisition step, of and acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device from a memory area of the external device but is not mounted on the external device, by using the read command; and

 a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

 wherein the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device, includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

Claims 23-41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus comprising:

 a memory configured to store information about a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus; and

 a communication unit configured to send the stored information to an external device.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the device mountable on said information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the memory stores information about a device which is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method of controlling an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device, said method comprising:
 an acquisition step, of acquiring, from the external device,

information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device; and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 45, wherein the device mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 45, wherein said acquisition step includes acquiring information indicative of the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and a device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device, and

 said display control step includes identifiably displaying the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired in said acquisition step.